State Capitol – 600 E Boulevard Ave – Dept. 215
Bismarck ND 58505-0230
Phone: 701.328.2960 Fax: 701.328.2961
E-mail: ndus.inquiry@ndus.edu Web: ndus.edu

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on November 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CT.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

☒ Mr. Curtis Biller, Chair
☒ Mr. Kevin Black
☒ Mr. DJ Campbell
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud (in at 1:07 p.m.)
☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, faculty advisor

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC, Interim President Leingang, Ms. Alicia Uhde, Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, **DCB,** Interim Dean Gorder, Ms. Misty Lindgren, **DSU,** President Molander, Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC,** President Simone, **MaSU,** Dr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU,** President Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS,** Dr. Lisa Karch, **NDSU,** Dr. David Bertolini, **UND,** Dr. Eric Link, **VCSU,** Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC,** President Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS, Commissioner Sanford, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Christina Pieske, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Ms. Mindy Sturn, DC David Krebsbach, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Mr. Chris Pieske, **CTS,** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Call to Order

Committee Chair Biller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., CT.

1. Agenda
   Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion was unanimously passed by a voice vote.

2. Meeting Minutes
   Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the October 21, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented. The motion was unanimously passed by voice vote.

#Committee Business

3. New Academic Program Request (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
   a. Bismarck State College
      i. UG Certificate in Education Foundation Substitute Teaching
         Ms. Uhde requested that the committee pass this motion for a 17-credit hour certificate on substitute teaching.
      ii. A.A.S. in Entrepreneurship
         Ms. Uhde requested that the committee pass this motion to create an A.A.S. degree for Entrepreneurship, which is currently a sub-plan of the Management program.

Campbell moved, Black seconded to approve both programs for Bismarck State College. Motion passed 3-0. Eriksrud was not present.

b. North Dakota State College of Science
   i. UG Certificate in Entrepreneurship
   ii. UG Certificate in HVAC/R Installation Technology
   iii. UG Certificate in Plumbing Journeyman's Code/Blueprint Study
   Dr. Karch explained that these courses are in existence now. However, after speaking with business and industry partners, they are proposing creating certificates for (i) Entrepreneurship, (ii) HVAC/R Instillation Technology, and (iii) Plumbing Journeyman's Code.
   iv. UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Surgical Technology
   Dr. Karch noted that due to a need for those trained in Surgical Technology, this would be an on-the-job program, and an earn and learn apprenticeship.
   Campbell moved, Black seconded the motion to approve NDSCS's four undergraduate certificates. Motion passed 4-0.

c. North Dakota State University
   i. M.H.A. in Healthcare Administration
   Dr. Bertolini stated that this online program would help fill a need in the workforce.
   Black moved, Eriksrud seconded the motion to approve the M.H.A. in Healthcare Administration. Motion passed 4-0.

d. University of North Dakota
   i. Ph.D. in Kinesiology
   Dr. Link stated that Kinesiology is currently part of the Ph.D. in -Education Health and Behavioral Studies. UND is proposing this as a standalone program.
   Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded the motion to create a Ph.D. in Kinesiology at UND. Motion passed 4-0.

e. Williston State College
   i. UG Certificate in Commercial Driver's License
   Dr. Atallah stated that an undergraduate certificate in Commercial Driver's License would be beneficial for those in the Northwest part of the state and Diesel students, who would need to obtain this certificate as part of their program. Holding this certificate could also make Diesel students more competitive in the workforce.
   Eriksrud moved, Black seconded the motion for the creation of an undergraduate degree in Commercial Driver's License for WSC. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Degree Type Change (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
   a. Dickinson State University
      i. A.A.S. in Practical Nursing to UG Certificate in Practical Nursing
      Dr. Gruhlke stated that DSU is creating career pathways, moving from a 2-year A.A.S. to a 1-year pathway to complete the License to Practical Nursing.
      Campbell moved, Black seconded the motion to create an undergraduate certificate in Practical Nursing. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Institutional Organization Exploration

a. North Dakota State University
   i. Center for Banking and Finance
      Dr. Bertolini stated the purpose of creating this Center for Banking and Finance would be to connect real-world learning opportunities and experiences to what is available in academia. These programs would be funded by external sources.
   ii. Honors College
      Dr. Bertolini stated that the Honors College will be cohort based and focuses on Innovation and Abundance Theory. These programs will also be funded by external sources.
      Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded the motion to approve the creation of the Center of Banking and Finance and Honors College for NDSU. Motion passed 4-0.

6. Tenure
   a. North Dakota State University
      Dr. Bertolini explained that NDSU hired the person seeking tenure to chair their Theater Department. NDSU has required that an individual in that position must have tenure; NDSU is nominating this person for tenure. Dr. Bertolini stated that this individual has met all their PTD qualifications for tenure.
      Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the request for tenure. Motion passed 4-0.

#SBHE Policy

7. Policy 409 Degree Offerings
   a. Reduced-credit bachelor's degree draft guardrails.
      DC Johnson presented seven proposed guardrails for reduced-credit bachelor's degrees for consideration of the committee. There was discussion regarding this topic.
      Campbell moved, Black seconded the motion to establish a pilot program, detailed in a separate new Board policy, to include guardrails agreed upon by the Board at their December meeting. Motion passed 4-0.
   b. Employer Perceptions of Bachelor's Degree Types Survey
      DC Johnson reported that the survey completed by employers found that they were receptive and valued prior work experience and the A.A.S. degree that are commonly associated with a reduced-credit Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degree. There was discussion regarding this topic.
   c. Institutional Mission, Program Offerings, and Vision for the Future Survey
      DC Johnson stated that item 7.c. was created for RGC but added it to the ASAC agenda believing it was pertinent to the committee's discussion of reduced-credit bachelor's degrees.

8. Policy 503.1 Student Free Speech and Expression
   Mr. Pieske stated that this policy includes only what is required by statute, taking out definitions that are not in statute. This will make the policy easier for campuses to implement.
   Black moved, Campbell seconded the motion to adopt Policy 503.1 as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

9. Policy 503.2 Student Data Privacy and Security Bill of Rights

Mr. Pieske stated that the proposed amendments are not meant to change anything substantively but are cleaning up the language.
Eriksrud moved and Black seconded the motion to adopt Policy 503.2 as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

10. Policy 514 Due Process Requirements for Student Conduct That May Result in Suspension or Expulsion
    Mr. Pieske stated that this policy is due for periodic review. This policy comes from statute with the proposed changes meant to clarify the language in the policy.
    Black moved, Campbell seconded the motion to approve Policy 514 as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion

11. Inactive Academic Programs
    DC Johnson stated that there is a need to review programs that have been in inactive status for 3 or more years to determine if there are some that could be slated for termination.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m., CT.